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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/713,296	11/16/2000	Larry Perrault	45197.2	3706

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EDWARD YOO C/O BENNETT JONES  
1000 ATCO CENTRE  
10035 - 105 STREET  
EDMONTON, ALBERTA, AB T5J3T2  
CANADA

EXAMINER

TRAN A, PHI DIEU N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

DATE MAILED: 04/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/713,296

Applicant(s)

PERRAULT ET AL.

Examiner

Phi D A

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18-21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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***Specification***

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 8 line 6 “connectors (18) “ is confusing. Connectors (18) is not in drawings. Also, lines 2-3 have “hangers (18)”, different items need to have different numbers, and the numbers need to be consistent.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 6, 8, 18, 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 line 2 “ the bottom of the bottom chord” is lacking antecedent basis

Claim 8 line 3 “ the bottom chord” is lacking antecedent basis.

Claim 18 line 3 “ partition wall, having a horizontal planar member....” is confusing. It is unclear what is having a horizontal planar member. Does applicant mean to say “ the bracket having a horizontal planar member”?

Claim 20 line 2 “comprising a planar member” has the same problem as claim 18 above.

Line 3 “ between, and extending beyond, the bottom...” is confusing. Should it be “ between, and extending beyond the bottom...”?

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

5. Claims 1-3, 8, 10-11, 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kost (6047503).

Kost (figure 12) shows an improved roof truss having a bottom plate (2A) disposed beneath the roof truss (6), means (24) for attaching the bottom plate to the roof truss ( the means 24 inherently is capable of allowing separation of the bottom from the roof truss when the bottom plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the roof truss rises relative to the interior partition wall), the means being a plurality of connectors (24), the connectors being removable ( inherently so by removing the fasteners 25A, 25C), the connectors having a plurality of wood fasteners ( 25A, 25C inherently wood fasteners as they fasten the connectors to the wooden frame) and hangers (24) having a plurality of holes, the wood fasteners connecting the bottom

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plate and the hangers through the holes, the hangers being metallic wrapped around hangers ( col 4 last line).

Per claims 10, 11, 13-14, Kost figures (5-7) shows the hangers(7, 8) having perforations (7A) disposed in such a way that if the hanger is severed at the perforation, the hanger and fasteners no longer work to attach the bottom plate to the bottom chord, the hangers (7, 8) being slidably attached to the bottom plate and the bottom chord( the hangers slidable between the plate and the chord before nailing), the hangers being U(8) or H(7) shaped hangers.

6. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gottlieb (4562683).

Gottlieb (figures 1, 8, 11) shows an improved roof truss having a bottom plate (20) disposed beneath the roof truss, means (10) for attaching the bottom plate to the roof truss ( the means inherently is capable of allowing separation of the plate from the truss when the plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the truss rises relative to the wall), the means being removable, frangible connectors ( removable by prying the means from the plates).

7. Claims 1-2, 7 are is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knoth (5561949).

Knoth (figure 1) shows an improved roof truss having a bottom plate (16) disposed beneath the roof truss(42), means(60) for attaching the bottom plate to the roof truss ( the means inherently is capable of allowing separation of the plate from the truss when the plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the truss rises relative to the wall), the means being gang plates.

8. Claims 1, 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bodtker (5459967).

Bodtker shows an improved roof truss having a bottom plate (29) disposed beneath the roof truss, means(40) for attaching the bottom plate to the roof truss ( the means inherently is capable of allowing separation of the plate from the truss when the plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the truss rises relative to the wall), the means being one more connectors slidably attached to the bottom plate and the roof truss ( the connector is slidable to attached at different locations of the plate and the truss).

9. Claims 1, 2, 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Eberle (4727700).

Eberle (figure 4) shows an improved roof truss having a bottom plate (28) disposed beneath the roof truss(2), connectors (18) for attaching the bottom plate to the roof truss ( the means inherently is capable of allowing separation of the plate from the truss when the plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the truss rises relative to the wall), the connectors being fasteners driven through the bottom plate(28) into the bottom of the bottom chord (2)

10. Claims 1, 2, 8, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reinen (4727700).

Reinen ( figures 1, 5) shows an improved roof truss having a bottom plate (66) disposed beneath the roof truss (32), connectors (12, the connectors inherently are capable of allowing separation of the plate from the truss when the plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the truss rises relative to the wall) for attaching the plate to the roof truss, the connectors comprising a plurality of wood fasteners (the nail fastening to wood) and hangers having a

plurality of holes (figure 5, holes at 86) wherein fasteners being driven through the holes in the hangers into the bottom chord, the hangers being frangible ( 94).

11. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Symonds (Australia 117042).

Symonds shows an improved roof truss having a bottom chord (4), a bottom plate (5) underneath the bottom chord, means (13, the means inherently is capable of allowing separation of the plate from the truss when the plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the truss rises relative to the wall) for attaching the bottom plate to the bottom chord, spacers (14) disposed between the bottom plate and the bottom chord which create a thermal gap between the bottom plate and the bottom chord.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reinen (4669235) in view of Boozer (5743063).

Reinen ( figures 1, 5) shows an improved roof truss having a bottom plate (66) disposed beneath the roof truss (32), connectors (12, the connectors inherently are capable of allowing separation of the plate from the truss when the plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the truss rises relative to the wall) for attaching the plate to the roof truss, the connectors

comprising a plurality of wood fasteners (the nail fastening to wood) and hangers having a plurality of holes (figure 5, holes at 86) wherein fasteners being driven through the holes in the hangers into the bottom chord, the hangers being slidably attached to the bottom plate and the bottom chord (slidable to position to be attached).

Reinen does not disclose the holes being vertically slotted holes.

Boozer discloses slots (figure 8C, 89) for connecting a hanger(89) to other structural members.

It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Reinen to show the holes being vertically slotted holes because applicant has not disclosed that the vertically slots holes solve any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with holes.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

14. Claims 18-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

15. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: prior art does not show the improved truss having a bottom chord, a bottom plate beneath the bottom chord, spacers between the bottom plate and the bottom chord forming a thermal gap, means attaching the bottom chord to the bottom plate, a bracket positioned between the bottom plate and the bottom chord, the bracket having a horizontal planar member on top of the bottom plate, the horizontal planar member being attached to vertical planar members on either side of



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the bottom plate, the vertical planar members being attached to horizontal planar members extending away from the bottom plate along the top surface of the interior partition wall, the bracket being attached to the top surface of the interior partition wall with fasteners driven through the planar members extending away from the bottom plate; prior art also does not show the improved truss having a bottom chord, a bottom plate beneath the bottom chord, spacers between the bottom plate and the bottom chord forming a thermal gap, means attaching the bottom chord to the bottom plate, a strap located at the intersection of the bottom plate and an interior partition wall, said strap having a planar member positioned between and extending beyond the bottom plate and the bottom chord, fasteners driven through the planar member on either side of the bottom plate to attach the bottom plate to the interior partition wall.

### *Conclusion*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art shows different improved roof trusses.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phi D A whose telephone number is 703-306-9136. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 703-308-2486. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phi Dieu Tran A', with a large circular flourish at the end.

Phi Dieu Tran A  
April 11, 2002